

REMARKS

Claims 11-30 are pending in this Application. By this Response, Applicants have amended claims 11 and 24. Accordingly, claims 11-30 are at issue. Applicants respectfully submit no new matter was added by these amendments.

The Examiner has rejected claims 11-21 and 24-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salas in view of Hershey. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 11 has been amended herein to more clearly define the present invention as including an adapter device that is “directly connected” to an input/output slave device. As clearly shown in the embodiment of Figure 1 of the present application, the adapter is connectable directly to the body of the input/output device. This allows for quickly and easily connecting the input/output device to the network without requiring special couplers or other devices to be implemented in the network. As explained in the application (at page 4, lines 2-25):

. . . the invention allows inexpensive standard network components to be used in place of specialized real time field bus components in communicating with industrial sensor and actuator devices. This enables major savings in cost and complexity when connecting simple devices to a network solution involving programmable controllers or other industrial computer systems, since the same networking infrastructure components can be shared.

Neither Salas nor Hershey disclose an adapter device as required in claim 11, as amended herein, of the present application. Additionally, Applicants respectfully maintain there is no incentive to combine Salas with Hershey in the manner provided in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claim 11 is patentable over Salas in view of Hershey.

Claims 12-23 depend on claim 11, either directly or indirectly, and include each of its limitations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claims 12-23 are also patentable over Salas in view of Hershey.

Similar to claim 11, claim 24 has been amended herein to clarify the control processing unit is directly attached to the factory automation device. Accordingly, for the reasons given above with

respect to claim 11, Applicants respectfully submit claim 24 is also patentable over Salas in view of Hershey.

Claims 25-29 depend on claim 24, either directly or indirectly, and include each of its limitations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claims 25-29 are also patentable over Salas in view of Hershey.

The Examiner has rejected claims 22, 23 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salas in view of Hershey in further view of Friedman. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit claims 11 and 24, as amended herein, are patentable over Salas in view of Hershey. Friedman does not cure the deficiencies of Salas and Hershey. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claims 11 and 24 are also patentable over Salas in view of Hershey and further in view of Friedman.

Claims 22 and 23 depend on claim 11, either directly or indirectly, and include each of its limitations, and claim 30 depends on claim 24 and includes each of its limitations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claims 22, 23 and 30 are also patentable over Salas in view of Hershey and further in view of Friedman.

Additionally, Applicants submit the combination of Salas with Hershey and Friedman in the manner maintained by the Examiner is improper. There is no motivation or incentive to combine the references in the manner suggested.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 11-30. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments associated with this Amendment to Deposit Account 23-0280. Applicants further invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number below to discuss any matters pertaining to the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on, November 8, 2005.

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